

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 864

UNCLAS ALGIERS 1652

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AG

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: REQUEST FOR INFO ON THREE

MAJOR PROJECTS

REF: (A) ALGIERS 1550 (B) STATE 1153356

1. GOA HAS OPENED BIDS ON UNIVERSITY AND TWO HOSPITAL PROJECTS. MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS REVIEWING BIDS. OFFICE RESPONSIBLE HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS PROJECTS UNTIL FULL ASSESSMENTS OF BIDS. NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. LIST OF BIDDERS UNAVAILABLE, BUT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD SWEDES, JAPANESE, FRENCH AND GERMANS INVOLVED. MANY BIDS ARE BY MULTINATIONAL GROUPS.

2. USINT HAS MADE A NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS WITH GHEDIRI OF MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION ON BEHALF OF U.S. ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED BIDS. UNFORTUNATELY MANY OF THE ARCHITECTS HAVE FAILED TO APPEAR FOR SCHEDULED MEETINGS.

3. WITH SOME HALF DOZEN U.S. FIRMS IN THE RUNNING, USINT BELIEVES BEST POLICY IS TO KEEP INFORMED BUT NOT TOO VISIBLE. ALGERIAN CONTRACTORS DO NOT EXPECT A FINAL DECISION IN NEAR FUTURE. USUAL PRACTICE WOULD BE TO ASK A FEW OF THE BIDDERS TO ELABORATE THEIR PROPOSALS. AT THAT TIME WE CAN BE MOST USEFUL.

4. NEW CITIES 'CIVIC CENTER' PLANNED BY GOA ARE IN
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A DIFFERENT STATUS. WITH ALGIERS OVER CROWDED AND ON

STEEP HILL GOA DECIDED FUTURE EXPANSION SHOULD BE TO EAST OF CITY JUST BEYOND INTERNATIONAL FAIR GROUNDS. PRESENT PLANS ARE FOR GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER, HOUSING FOR 30,000 INHABITANTS, A DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE, AND ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER FOR NATIONAL CORPORATIONS. ALSO MENTIONED ARE THREE DAMS FOR WATER, A 400 BED HOTEL AND ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS. AREA EAST OF ALGIERS IS EXPECTED TO HOUSE A MILLION PEOPLE BY YEAR 2000.

5. THESE PLANS HAVE BEEN UNDER STUDY BY COMEDOR (COMITE D'AMENAGEMENT D'ALGER, 2, RUE AMAR GRICE.) AN ALGERIAN, OULD HENIA, IS DIRECTOR OF PROJECT IN COMEDOR. BRAZILIAN ARCHITECT NEIMEIR HAS DONE INITIAL DRAWINGS WHICH ARE SAID TO BE GRANDIOSE, BUT NOT TOO PRACTICAL. COMEDOR IS NOW PREPARING INTERNATIONAL BIDS FOR PROJECTS FOR EARLY CONSTRUCTION. TOTAL PLAN WILL ONLY BE BUILT OVER MANY YEARS. ENGINEERING ADVISOR TO COMEDOR EXPECTS 6 OF 19 TEN-TWELVE STORY OFFICE BUILDINGS MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN 1974-77 FOUR-YEAR PLAN. FOR POLITICAL REASONS FIRST EARTH WILL BE MOVED THIS YEAR.

6. ARCHITECT FROM SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL WILL BE IN ALGIERS AUGUST 2-4. THEY ARE NEGOTIATING ON ALL THREE PROJECTS. USINT WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THESE PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY NEW CITIES, AND REPORT AS GOA MOVES TOWARDS DECISIONS.
SIMPSON

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